

**Remarks**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 3, 2007. The specification is amended to update references to related applications. Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, and 23 are amended. Claims 5, 16 and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-23, and 25-27 remain pending in the present application. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 4, 12, 15, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 4, 12, 15, 20 and 23 are amended to address the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. The amendments discussed herein are not meant to limit the scope of the amended claims.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, 20, 22-23 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Narayanan et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20040193952 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 12, and 20 are amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 5, 16, and 24, respectively. Claims 5, 16, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 is directed to method for synchronizing multiple instances of a storage platform for a hardware/software interface system. Claim 1 recites, in part, multiple instances of a storage platform comprise a multi-master sync community.

As stated in the Office Action, Narayanan et al. fails to disclose a method wherein multiple instances of a storage platform comprise a multi-master sync community. Wu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,216,133) is cited for providing the disclosure missing in Narayanan et al.

The correctness of the rejection is not conceded. However, both Narayanan et al. and Wu et al. are available as prior art only under section 102(e). The present application, Narayanan et al., and Wu et al., were all, at the time the inventions of the present application were made, owned by Microsoft Corporation. MPEP 706.02(I)(2)(II). It is therefore respectfully requested that Narayanan et al. and Wu et al. be removed from consideration as prior art under section

103(a). 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 3, 4, and 6-9, that depend therefrom, are therefore requested.

Claims 12 and 20, although not identical in scope to claim 1, includes limitations similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 12 and 20 should therefore be allowable for at least similar reasons to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 12 and 20, as well as claims 14, 15, 17-19, 22, 23, and 25-27, that depend therefrom respectively, are therefore requested.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Narayanan et al. in view of Wu et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

Claims 5, 16, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection of claims 5, 16, and 24 is therefore moot.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 12, and 20 are patentable. Claims 2, 10, 11, 13, and 21 depend (directly or indirectly) from one of the independent claims 1, 12, and 20. Claims 2, 10, 11, 13, and 21 are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as those provided above for claims 1, 12, and 20. The correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 10, 11, 13, and 21 are therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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